

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 007055

13

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 EB-11 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 TRSE-00 SS-20

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R 112353Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN ECONOMIC STUDY TRIP

REF: CARACAS 00090

1. DEPT AND USIA APPRECIATE THOUGHTFUL PROPOSAL CONTAINED
REFTEL FOR DISPATCH OF SELECTED VENEZUELAN ECONOMIC EXPERTS
AND WRITERS ON ENERGY-ORIENTED ECONOMIC STUDY TRIP TO US
AND AGREE IN PRINCIPLE THAT PROPOSAL HAS MERIT.

2. INTERESTING PROGRAM COULD BE DEVELOPED FOR SUCH
VISITORS BY STATE (CU), USIA, AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
INSTITUTE, AND FUNDS COULD POSSIBLY BE ADDED TO VENEZUELA'S
CU ALLOTMENT.

3. BEFORE FINAL DECISION TAKEN, BELIEVE CAREFUL CONSIDERA-
TION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO POSSIBLE NEGATIVE FACTORS ATTENDANT
ON SUCH A PROJECT AND WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY MAKE IT
COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. FOR EXAMPLE:

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PAGE 02 STATE 007055

A. MIGHT PROJECT BE EFFECTIVELY EXPLOITED IN VENEZUELA AS CONFIRMATION COPEI CAMPAIGN ALLEGATIONS THAT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND AD WERE FAVORED BY PETROLEUM COMPANIES AND USG?

B. WOULD PROJECT BE MISCONSTRUED IN VENEZUELA AS PREINAUGURAL US ATTEMPT TO BUY OFF AD THINKERS AND POLICYMAKERS?

C. COULD PROJECT BE SO CONDUCTED AS TO AVOID UNSEEMLY DUPLICATION, GIVEN FACT THAT OUR INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM HAS LONG CONCENTRATED ON THESE SAME TYPES OF CANDIDATES, INCLUDING TEN YEARS WHEN AD WAS IN POWER?

D. ARE CAP'S ECONOMIC AND PETROLEUM POLICIES IN FACT DEVELOPED TO POINT WHERE SUCH VISITORS COULD AUTHORITATIVELY DISCUSS THEM?

4. ASSUMING PROJECT DEEMED FEASIBLE, TIMING WOULD BE IMPORTANT ASPECT. EMBASSY CONTEMPLATES VISIT BEFORE EARLY-MARCH INAUGURATION. ON THIS BASIS, EARLY FEBRUARY WOULD APPEAR MOST OPPORTUNE TIMING. ON OTHER HAND, MULTIPLE PROBLEMS AND INITIATIVES IN ENERGY FIELD ARE SURE TO COMPLICATE PROBLEM OF AVAILABILITY AND APPOINTMENTS KEY OFFICIALS.

5. EMBASSY COMMENTS REQUESTED. RUSH

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